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and each child received a toy and a bag. Last, but not least, ice cream (one of the "toys" at the tea had been five dollars towards this) and cake were passed and the parting guests were gently speeded on their divers ways. It was certainly a great success and the children still talk of "the party that Miss Middleton and Miss Lund gave us."

In Boston, the Tuberculosis Visiting Nurses make lists of the needs of their special cases and Miss Isabel Hyams, one of the trustees of the Boston Consumptives' Hospital, and her friends play Santa Claus at large and not only collect the clothing, gloves, shoes, stockings, etc., on each list, but add a toy for every child, a doll for every girl, and a flowering plant or a basket of fruit for each house-ridden patient. On the day before Christmas the nurses, in automobiles loaned for the occasion, carry the gifts to the patients' homes.

"IN TIME OF PEACE, PREPARE FOR WAR"

By BEATRICE VAN H. STEVENSON

Secretary, New York State Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

VERY shortly after Major-General Leonard Wood assumed his duties as Chief of the General Staff of the United States Army, the highest military position which the service affords, he expressed his opinion most forcibly as to the necessity of extending the work of the Red Cross. He said, in part, "Interest in the Red Cross organization should be developed and increased and can be carried to a point where the Red Cross will be of the greatest value to us in war or in case of any great disaster. The extension and improvement of the Red Cross is of vital necessity in time of peace. . . . We should have districts all over the country with base of supplies and volunteer personnel, in touch and ready to be called upon. Such Red Cross organization would be useful not only in time of war, for which we have been told by a great general we must prepare in time of peace, but would be highly useful at times of big disasters like that of the San Francisco earthquake."

The fact that General Wood commenced his army service as a surgeon in the medical department (being transferred to the line at the time of the Spanish War) gives special emphasis to his remarks on this subject. During the last month more than one news item in our daily papers, under the heading "Army and Navy Notes," has commenced with a line such as "Profiting by experience gained during the Spanish War, the War Department has ordered, etc." For instance, in October we read,

“The army medical officers have made substantial progress towards the accumulation of a reserve stock of hospital supplies which will be available in time of emergency. It has been demonstrated that it is practically impossible to obtain this material in the short time available when war occurs. The trouble which arose at the beginning of the war with Spain promises to be avoided by the new conditions, which find the army medical officers anticipating the sudden demands likely to be made on that branch in time of war.”

The societies of American nurses which form our Associated Alumnae, when they voted to affiliate with the National Red Cross, assumed the responsibility of providing a reserve corps of nurses which would be ready for service whenever called upon by the National Government.

A year ago last April, Major Charles Lynch came from Washington to tell the nurses in New York that the government depended on the Red Cross to supply the nursing personnel which would be required in the event of war. Captain Joseph Siler, Medical Staff, Governors Island, repeated this shortly afterwards, and Colonel John Van R. Hoff, Medical Department U. S. A., told us this year at the Nightingale memorial service that the next war might not be far off. The enrolment of nurses to form this Red Cross Nurses' Corps is a national work. Are we ready if called upon by the War Department? Are we doing all that we can to be ready?

We hear of the splendid work of the Japanese army medical department and Red Cross during the Russo-Japanese War, but they spent *ten* years preparing for it. It is said that there were over four thousand Japanese nurses employed during that war, there were over two thousand British nurses employed during the Boer War, and in our own short experience, in 1898, over seventeen hundred women were employed. How many nurses have we enrolled and ready for service to-day? Are we going to rise to the occasion and recognize the fact that we owe something to the country which has made us nurses? which has given us recognition and support, and placed us ahead of the nurses of any other country in the world? If so, enroll now! Have your application forwarded to the War Department in Washington as an outward and visible sign that you are ready if the government needs your work.